

### SPOTS ON FIRETHORN BERRIES

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The aesthetic value of the Firethorn shrub, *Pyracantha coccinea* Roem., is due to the beautiful, brightly colored berries produced in great numbers on these plants. Early in the fall of 1964, a fungus, *Phytophthora cactorum* (Leb. & Cohn) Schroet., previously reported on apple fruit (2), was recovered from fruit spots on Firethorn berries in Florida.

**SYMPTOMS.** The individual fruit spots are light brown to black, slightly depressed and dry (Fig. 1). The flesh beneath each spot is a well-defined light brown (1). Individual spots coalesce till the entire fruit is mummified. Frequently, secondary fungi invade the affected tissue and accelerate the rotting process so that the primary causal agent, *Phytophthora*, cannot be recovered in culture.

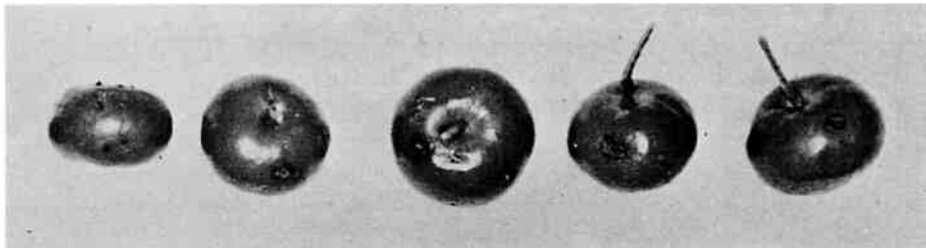


Fig. 1. Dark spots on berries of Firethorn.

**CONTROL.** This disease is most troublesome in wet seasons or under growing conditions of excessively high humidity. The best control is a preventive spray with the fungicide captan, a specific control for the water-mold fungi.

#### Literature Cited

1. Gram, Ernst, and Anna Weber. 1953. Plant diseases in orchard, nursery and garden crops. Philosophical Library, New York. MacDonald, London, p 125.
2. Wormald, H. 1939. Diseases of Fruits and Hops. Crosby Lockwood & Son, Ltd., London.